

## HERO-MAKER WEEK 3: LIVING LIKE A HERO-MAKER

(Preacher – Dave Ferguson, Community Christian Church, Chicago – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020)

### Introduction

Community Christian Church in Chicago have produced an excellent preaching resource called 'Hero-Maker'. They have kindly allowed us to make audio copies of the sermons, so please get in contact with us at Transform Widnes if you would like a copy. There is also book 'Hero-Maker' that accompanies the series and goes into greater depth with the themes. This can be purchased [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hero-Maker-ITPE-ExponentialFerguson/dp/0310588936/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=hero-maker&qid=1595422883&sr=8-1r](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hero-Maker-ITPE-ExponentialFerguson/dp/0310588936/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=hero-maker&qid=1595422883&sr=8-1r) if you or someone on your behalf would like to buy this.

### Summary of Teaching Video – Week 3

If we call ourselves followers of Jesus, we are not just apprenticed to the way of Jesus, but we are called to apprentice others in the way of Jesus. Jesus' last words to his disciples in Matthew's gospel, the great commission are this:

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' (*Matthew 28:16-20, N.I.V*)

Every single one of us is called to be disciple-makers. We are called to, as Pastor Dave says, 'pour our lives into others.' To do this we need to live like hero-makers.

### Jesus the Hero-Maker

Jesus drew enormous crowds during his earthly mission, however the crowds were not the main focus of his ministry. Luke 6:12-13 tells us that Jesus prayerfully discerned who he would pick to focus teaching, training and sending out to take part in his assignment to the world. The gospels record that Jesus spent 73% of his time with the twelve that he picked out to intentionally focus on.

### Jesus spent time with his apprentices

John 3:22 tells us that Jesus would spend time with a key few people he was training. He didn't just teach them information, like a teacher/student, but he also did life with them. The phrase 'he spent time with them' in the original language of the Bible means 'to rub off on someone' – the life of Jesus 'rubbed off' on his apprentices: they became like him. There are couple of people that we are called to focus on in our neighbourhoods, places of work,

friendship groups etc. We all know of experiences where couples, friends, colleagues become like each other in word, actions etc when we spend significant time with each other.

### **Some objections to this calling:**

**'I'm not a spiritual giant'** – You don't need to be a Bible expert, someone who prays for hours on end, a super-activist who's campaigning for justice all the time, or a super-intelligent scholar to be used by God for this. As Dave Ferguson says, 'God has put good stuff in you!' You have unique, gifts, talents, a calling upon your life.

**'I don't have time'** – You don't have to add extra time to your schedule to spend time with the people God has put on your heart. Think of the things that you usually do – take the kids out for a walk (could your apprentice come along?), drive to the shops (could your apprentice come?), eat lunch (you could invite your apprentice!) etc?

### **Five steps to train someone as an apprentice of Jesus**

Below is the hero-maker framework for rubbing off on people, spending time and apprenticing in the way of Jesus. People who are apprentices in other industries and businesses will recognise this way of working:

The 'I' is the hero-maker

The 'you' is the apprentice

1. I do you watch we talk
2. I do you help we talk
3. You do I help we talk
4. You do I watch we talk
5. You do someone else watches (the next apprentice)

### **The Dream of Hero-Making**

Lets do an experiment. Say that 20 members of Transform Widnes Church decided that every year from now on they would seek to make one apprentice of Jesus and train that apprentice to do the same who would do the same. Look at the potential of the multiplication effect:

1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 - 10 members of Transform Widnes choose one person each to

apprentices = **10 new apprentices in year one.**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 – Those same members of Transform choose a new person to apprentice, whilst the people they apprenticed last year make an apprentice each = **30 new apprentices in year two.**

1st September 2022- The original members of Transform, those they apprenticed in year one and those they apprenticed in year two all make apprentices = **70 new apprentices in year three**

1st September 2023 – Process repeats = **150 new apprentices in year four**

1st September 2024 = **310 new apprentices in year five**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 = **640 new apprentices in year six (now see what happens!)**

1 September 2026 = **1270**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2027 = **2550**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2028 = **5110**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2029 = **10,230**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2030 = **20,470**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2031 = **40,960** (Three quarters of Widnes reached)

1<sup>st</sup> September 2032 = **81,920** (All of Widnes plus!)

This may seem idealistic to you, but this is exactly how Christianity spread in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century from 120 followers to over 2.2Billion people today! Let's dream and live with this Kingdom potential!

### **Weekly Practice Number 3– Put your hand on your heart**

- It's time to live like a Hero Maker.
- Pray: Lord Who are you calling me to pour my life in to over this season? How could I do life with them and invite them into the way of Jesus? Give me courage to do this. Amen